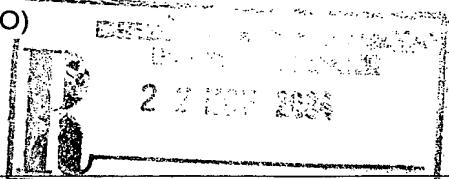


From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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TELECOM ITALIA S.P.A.
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ITALIE



PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(PCT Rule 71.1)

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 1680D/MG | | Date of mailing (day/month/year) 19.11.2004 | |
| International application No. PCT/IT 03/00703 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30.10.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 30.10.2002 | |
| Applicant OLIVETTI TECNOST S.P.A. et al. | | | |

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary report on patentability and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary report on patentability. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

| | |
|--|---|
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 | Authorized Officer Mader, D Tel. +49 89 2399-2744 |
|--|---|



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference 1680D/MG | FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) | |
| International application No. PCT/T 03/00703 | International filing date (day/month/year) 30.10.2003 | Priority date (day/month/year) 30.10.2002 |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC G07F7/10 | | |
| Applicant OLIVETTI TECNOST S.P.A. et al. | | |

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 9 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

| | |
|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand 27.05.2004 | Date of completion of this report 19.11.2004 |
| Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 | Authorized Officer Paraf, E Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7998 |



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/IT 03/00703

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-24 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-17 as amended (together with any statement) under Art. 19 PCT

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/IT 03/00703**

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-17 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-17 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-17 |
| | No: Claims | |

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/IT 03/00703

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability ; citations and explanations supporting such statement.

1. Reference is made to the following documents :

D1: EP-A-0 856 821 (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 5 August 1998
D2: EP-A-0 936 584 (MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 18 August 1999
D3: US 2001/000814 A1 (GUTHERY SCOTT B ET AL) 3 May 2001

2. Amendments (Article 41(2) PCT).

Support for the claims 1-17 filed with the letter dated October 14. 2004 has been found in the description in the following parts :

- page 6, lines 14-19 ;
- page 14, lines 19-25 ;
- page 15, lines 9-10 ;
- pages 19-21.

Therefore, the requirements of Article 41(2) PCT appear to be fulfilled.

3. Independent claims 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17.

3.1. Claim 1.

The document D1, which is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, discloses a distributed system comprising :

- a central control unit (management center 4) ;
- a plurality of local terminals (IC card term 2a, 2b) distributed throughout the land, said central unit being suitable for controlling said local terminals through a communication and control network ;
- a plurality of smart cards (IC card 6) assigned to the operators of said local terminals, said smart cards being provided for being used by said operators to activate and enable said local terminals to issue printed objects ;

[column 4, lines 25-57 ; figures 1-3]

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/IT 03/00703

-an initialisation programme associated with said central unit, with said local terminals and with said smart cards

[column 18, line 49 - column 19, line 44 ; figures 11-12]

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known system in that the initialisation programme is able to initialise in combination, a given local terminal and a given smart card, so as to establish between said given terminal and said given smart card a biunequivocal relationship of correspondence and cooperation, such that, said given smart card is enabled, within the framework of said system, to cooperate solely with said corresponding given terminal and in turn said given local terminal is enabled for issuing said printed objects solely after having recognized said given smart card in combination with which it was initialised.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as generally providing a higher level of security in the use of defined local terminal for accessing to a service (namely issuing printed objects) by an owner of a card registered and authorised for this very local terminal.

Such a problem is not at all addressed in the system of document D1 because it is working exactly in the opposite option whereas each IC card can be used on various terminal (see column 21, lines 29-51). The other relevant prior-art documents (D2 and D3) presently available also disclose systems in which any terminal can be accessed by different IC cards.

Therefore, the solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

3.2. Independent claims 12, 13, 14, 15, 17 define a method corresponding to the system of claim 1 and systems related to the system of claim 1. The subject-matter of these claims being based in the same solution is therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4. Claims 2-11 and 16 are respectively dependent on claim 1 and claim 15. As such these claims also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.